



*Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on
Aging Representing:
Agency on Aging of South Central CT
North Central Area Agency on Aging
Western CT Area Agency on Aging
Senior Resources - Agency on Aging Eastern CT
Southwestern CT Agency on Aging*

Legislative Testimony, Aging Committee, February 5, 2013

S.B. No. 522 (RAISED) AN ACT INCREASING FUNDING FOR ELDERLY NUTRITION.

The Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging supports S.B. 522, An Act Increasing Funding for Elderly Nutrition Program. State funding is provided as a match to Older Americans Act, federal funds and expands the provision of community-based and home-delivered meals for seniors in need of nutrition. The nutrition programs also provide a gateway for older adults to learn more about available community supports designed to promote independence and forego premature institutional care. Last fiscal year, deficits in nutrition funding caused some community sites to close or placed seniors on home-delivered meal waiting lists. Given the correlation between nutrition and good health, we respectfully ask for the legislators' support of this increase in nutrition funds.

H.B. No. 5757 (RAISED) AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY.

H.B. No. 5765 (RAISED) AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.

I ask the Legislature to consider the limits imposed by decreases in the line item for both the State funded portion of the CT Home Care Program for Elders H.B. 5757 and the Alzheimer's Respite Program, H.B. 5765 before supporting an expansion of the eligibility for either program. If we operationalize an expansion in either of these programs, it will require a corresponding decrease in the dollars used to fund the care plans of existing clients. The Governor's rescission of 5% of the state funds in the CT Home Care and Alzheimer's Respite Programs has left fewer dollars available to current clients. Expanding eligibility brings additional potential clients into the mix without the funds to serve these newly eligible clients. C4A recognizes the monumental impact of both the CT Home Care Program and the Alzheimer's Respite Program in helping the State achieve its Rebalancing goal. These programs provide an alternative to institutional care for over 16,000 adults in Connecticut. They support the goals of Money Follows the Person by diverting individuals prior to a three or six month institutional stay. C4A supports any attempt to expand eligibility of these programs providing there is a corresponding increase in the dollars available to serve these clients. When considering any request for additional funds in these

community-based programs, it is important to consider the Medicaid cost of institutional care at \$96,000 annually versus the average community-based care plan at \$18,000. The availability of safe, appropriate community –based plans like those available via the CT Home Care and Alzheimer’s Respite Programs present a cost effective alternative in line with the Governor’s rebalancing goals.

H.B. No. 5762 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS.

The CT Association of Area Agencies on Aging supports H.B. 5762, An Act Concerning a Study of Funding and Support for Home and Community-based Care for the Elderly and Alzheimer’s Patients. The State would benefit from research that quantifies the savings gleaned by community-based services as compared to institutional care. In 2006, the Long Term Care Needs Assessment provided the foundation for much of the rebalancing work that is currently guiding policy decisions. A comprehensive study including an examination of the fiscal impact of the community-based supports is essential to control Medicaid expenditures and balance the State’s budget. The Study could also provide a public platform to enhance the education and awareness of retirees planning for their long term care needs.

For further information on programs and services offered through the Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging:

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